

now. We get pork from Indiana, Pilot bread from New York, and fresh beef once in a while. Rice and coffee are in abundance, with plenty of sugar and salt. Jan. 15th I am setting this evening on the ground, in my tent. My bayonet is stuck in the ground, to hold the candle while I write this letter. There is a hard wind blowing.

Our Company is one of the largest in the Regiment. We draw rations for 51 men. There are about 330 men in the Regt. fit for duty. We had a grand Review yesterday, with several thousand troops drawn up in line. The bands were playing, and it was a very brilliant sight. The commanding Gen. Burnside and staff, and Generls Sumner, Couch, Sedgewick, Howard, French and Sully. These Men all mounted, and with their Staffs accompanying them rode along the lines. It was quite a sight.

Mar. 6th. Capt. Messick has returned from Minn. and gave that me that package of butter and dried fruit which you sent. They were nice on our hardtack and pork. We go on picket tomorrow for 24 hours, and will have a good time, unless the Rebs get fractious. Back from picket. We were ordered to pack up at three oclock this morning, some of the boys say they heard fireing on the outposts. The health is excellent, and the army in good fighting trim. We have the best rations that we ever had. I see by the paper that Gen. Sumners is dead. I am sorry, he was a good man.

The Rebs are in their old camps. Their tents can be seen for 8 miles along the river.

Apr. 8th the Army was reviewed by President Lincoln and Gen. Hooker, Gov. Ramsey and Capt. have been to see us and presented us with a State Flag. I was on picket the 4th inst. About sundown it started to snow and some 6 inches fell. It was the worst night I have spent since I have been in the Army. President Lincoln looked rather careworn.

Apr. 20th I saw six rebel soldiers this morning that had deserted and come over to our lines. They are hard looking fellows, and no doubt sick of Jeff D. and Co. They appear to be short of rations. Their pickets along the river ask us to come over and see them. They send us a Richmond paper occasionally. Since the fish commenced to run they are continually fishing. When we get orders to march, we are to take 8 days rations. The Rebs have found this out, and ask us when we are coming over with the grub. Part of the Army has moved now, and we have orders to be ready. We